

U.S.C. 119(e) or 120 be filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application or provisional application.” Applicants read this section to require that the present application and previously filed application have at least one common inventor in order to claim priority to the previously filed application. This section does not state that the applications must have all inventors in common. In fact, this would discourage disclosure and improvement of inventions as named inventors would be hesitant to speak with anyone that was not an inventor on their initial application. Bill J. Pope is an inventor in the present application as well as in United States Patent No. 5,645,601. Therefore, Applicants believe that they have perfected their claim for priority to United States Patent No. 5,645,601.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

In the Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 56, 66 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Pope, et al. (United States Patent No. 5,645,601). Applicants have claimed priority to Pope et al. in the present application and therefore, it is not available as a prior art reference. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection in light of Applicants’ priority claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

In the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 29 and 57-63 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Pope et al. (United States Patent No. 5,645,601) in view of Turchan et al. (United States Patent No. 5,554,415). Applicants have claimed priority to Pope et al. in the present application and therefore, it is not available as a prior art reference. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 103(a) rejection in light of Applicants’ priority claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, Applicants believe that all issues and points of the Action have been addressed in a sincere effort to advance prosecution of this Application.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0581 for any additional fees.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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